

REMARKS

Claims 20 and 38 to 40 are now pending in this application. Applicants thank Examiner Vogel for her time to conduct a telephone interview on September 29, 2005. The pending claim and potential amendments and new claims were discussed. The amendments described above seek to revise the claims along the lines discussed during the interview. Specifically, applicants have amended claim 20 to modify the way the claimed subject matter is recited and have added new dependent claims 38 to 40. The amendments and new claims 38 to 40 are supported throughout the specification, e.g., in originally-filed claims 7 and 13 and at page 2, lines 24 to 27, page 4, lines 4 to 6 and page 24, lines 21 to 24. These amendments and new claims add no new matter to the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 20 was rejected as allegedly obvious over Beames et al. (Virology 194:597-607) in view of Xian-Jun et al. (Hepatology, Vol. 1, No. 5, pp. 781-787, 1989). In the interest of moving the present application toward allowance and as discussed during the interview, applicants have amended claim 20 to modify the way the claimed subject matter is recited. Applicants reserve the right to pursue originally-filed claim 20 in unamended form in one or more continuation applications. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Beames nor Xian-Jun, singly or in combination, render amended claim 20 obvious. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the present rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant : Jack R. Wands et al.
Serial No. : 09/812,862
Filed : March 20, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 00786-282003 / MGH 0944.3
Wands

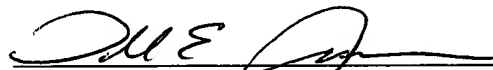
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is requested. No fees are believed to be due at this time. However, please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00786-282003.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

9/29/05



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